

July to September 2021- Volume 4, Number 3

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A Note From the Broward County's Urban Horticulture Extension Agent..

Dear "Broward Green Bites" Readers,

I am very excited to share with you our Summer Broward Green Bites newsletter. Our new issue is sharing impact stories, new 2021 projects, educational information, and collaborative initiatives for original programming. The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is a federal, state, and county partnership dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources, the life sciences and to making that knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. Enjoy our new newsletter!

Lorna Bravo



Interested to visit our Florida-Friendly Landscape Garden?
Email us at: samuel.chillaron@ufl.edu

Lorna Bravo, Urban Horticulture Agent II, CED LEED AP BD+C
Phone: 954-756-8529 | Fax: 954-357-5271
Email: lbravo1@ufl.edu

STAY CONNECTED-VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:



[@UrbanHortBroward](https://www.instagram.com/UrbanHortBroward)



<https://twitter.com/horturban>



<https://facebook.com/urbanhortbroward>



LORNA BRAVO



Upcoming Events

UF/IFAS Extension Broward County

**2021 SUSTAINABLE URBAN
FOOD PRODUCTION
SHORT-COURSE**

Mondays 1:00 - 4:30 pm | (except for Oct. 12)

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021
Introduction to Sustainable Urban Agriculture & Regulations

SEPTEMBER 27, 2021
Business and Marketing Plan, and Financial Resources

OCTOBER 4, 2021
Urban Food Production Systems

OCTOBER 12, 2021
Best Management Practices

OCTOBER 18, 2021
Technology Integration in Urban Agriculture

OCTOBER 25, 2021
Post Harvesting & Food Handling

Short-course will be delivered in-person with proper social distancing

Location
UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research
and Education Center
3205 College Ave
Davie, FL 33314

For More Information Contact
Lorna Bravo (lbravo1@ufl.edu)
Amy Wiedenfeld
(awiedenfeld@ufl.edu)
or 954-756-8519

Organized by: Dr. Jiangqiao Qiu, Assistant Professor, Landscape Ecology (qiu@ufl.edu)
Lorna Bravo, UF/IFAS Broward County Extension Director (lbravo1@ufl.edu)
Jessica Ryals, UF/IFAS Extension Agent Sustainable Food Systems (jessicarials@ufl.edu)

This comprehensive UF/IFAS Extension program on sustainable urban food production is geared for all audiences including homeowners, school teachers, community gardeners, urban farmers, and entrepreneurs interested in this developing industry. Participants will gain a better understanding of social, environmental benefits of urban agriculture, acquire knowledge and adopt management practices to start, expand and empower their operations of local food production in urban settings. Participants will receive a certification after completion of this short-course.

Registration: \$50 for 6 classes. Training materials and light refreshments are included.

Seating limited

Register online here
<https://browardurbanag2021.eventbrite.com>

New 2022 Master Gardener Volunteer Scholarship Program

Applications are available for the 2022 UF/IFAS Extension Broward County Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) training scheduled to begin in February 2022. For the second year in a row, the program will be conducted virtually with two classes a week for 16 weeks. For the first time, a scholarship program has been designed for interested participants who might not otherwise be able to financially pay the complete cost of the training fee.

Interested? Contact: lbravo1@ufl.edu

- [MGV-Scholarship-Application-2020.pdf \(ufl.edu\)](https://browardurbanag2021.eventbrite.com)



URBAN HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

Watch our Program Video:
➤ <https://youtu.be/ry9bPJyKUyY>



FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING



MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



URBAN FOOD PRODUCTION PROGRAM

BROWARD COUNTY URBAN HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

Welcome to UF/IFAS Extension Broward County Urban Horticulture Programs. As urban areas are rapidly increasing worldwide, our urban yards are the first defense line preserving Florida's fragile environment.

Programs, such as Florida Friendly Landscaping™, teach residents to maintain attractive landscapes while reducing yard waste, pesticide, fertilizer, and water use. The Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a volunteer-driven program that relies on dedicated volunteers interested in gardening and giving back to their communities. Sustainable Urban Food Production program is geared for all audiences, including homeowners, school teachers, community gardeners, urban farmers, and entrepreneurs interested in this developing industry. Participants will gain a better understanding of the social, environmental benefits of urban agriculture, acquire knowledge and adopt management practices to start, expand and empower their operations of local food production in urban settings. UF/IFAS Education/Training Specialists, Extension Agents, and Master Gardener Volunteers are always available to assist with sustainable landscape and gardening questions. Together, we keep Broward green!



WATCH OUR NEW VIDEO:

• <https://youtu.be/ry9bPJyKUyY>

"When I began the Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) training in February 2020, I expected to learn about plants, water, soil, propagation, garden pests, butterflies, and so much more. What I did not expect was how the MGV training would transform outside play for me and my kindergarten students. When I returned from a short leave of absence this past school year, I knew that I had to figure out how to spend more time outdoors in our Kindness Garden. I had to plan and organize for outside play as I knew it would be important for everyone's physical and mental health as were in the middle of a pandemic."

Play is play. Gardening is gardening. Right? Wrong! Gardening transformed play for me and my kindergarteners. We spent some of our outside time watering, weeding, planting, observing growth and change, spotting wildlife, and admiring nature in our Kindness Garden. To extend our outside time, I gathered nature-based loose parts for use during outside STEAM time. I collected wood scraps, seeds of all types, pinecones of different sizes, shells, rocks, bones, sticks, tree stumps, palm fronds, leaves, feathers, and whatever I found on walks and drives. And, I provided water (and food coloring... of course).

And, voila, nature-based loose parts play evolved organically before our eyes. Kindergarteners built vehicles, roads, and sculptures with wood scraps. They made “nature” soup with the herbs they tended to in our Kindness Garden. Some made “nature” tea with lemongrass and mint and added colorful petals from our zinnias, flame vine, and nasturtium flowers. Many liked peeling avocado seeds when they were pretend cooking. My kindergartners used leaves as money in their pretend restaurant (just when we thought money didn’t grow on trees). Nature-based loose parts play led to art in the Kindness Garden. One kindergartener made a mandala design, ON HIS VERY OWN, using loose parts from nature. Kindergarteners drew and painted in our Kindness Garden. Many used wood scraps and other loose parts for sculptures. Everyone painted a kindness rock to add to our collection.



LILLIAN ORTIZ/MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER CLASS 2020



Nature-based loose parts play was a magical learning and playing time for all of us. I am hopeful that my story inspires you to be trained as a MGVS or to let your MGVS training transform how you see and approach the world in the multiple roles you have in life. I know that the MGVS training has not only changed me professionally and personally, but it has created a ripple effect that has transformed my kindergarteners. The latter fills me with hope for our future generations. “

Happy Gardening- One Day At A Time!
Lillian Ortiz

EXPLORING NEW SUSTAINABILITY PATHWAYS

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINEES GROWING UF-LETTUCE LINES FROM SEED. TRANSPLANTING THEM INTO A SELF-WATERING SYSTEM. MODELING GROWING FOOD IN SMALL SPACES. EXPLORING SUSTAINABILITY PATHWAYS THAT ENHANCE RESOURCE EFFICIENCY, REDUCE TRADEOFFS, AND IMPROVE RESILIENCE OF URBAN AREAS.

Success Stories

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINEES GROWING UF-LETTUCE LINES FROM SEED. TRANSPLANTING THEM INTO A SELF-WATERING SYSTEM. MODELING GROWING FOOD IN SMALL SPACES.



GROWING FOOD IN SMALL SPACES

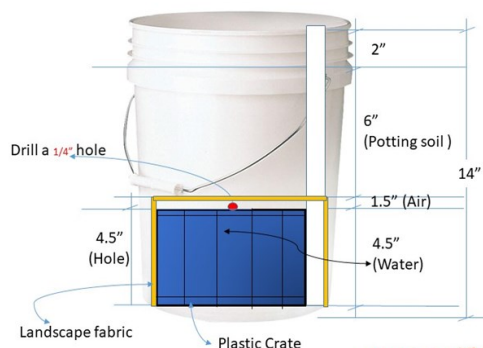


Master Gardener Volunteer Trainees
Growing UF-Lettuce Lines



Self-Watering Bucket Garden

TRAIN THE TRAINER PROJECT



Prepared by: Lorna Bravo-Urban Horticulture Agent



INTRODUCING SUSTAINABLE URBAN GARDENING GROWING FOOD IN SMALL SPACES



TRAINING TEACHERS—SUSTAINABLE GARDENING



A COLLABORATION PROJECT BETWEEN FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAM (FNP) AND BROWARD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. THE BROWARD COUNTY SHERIDAN PARK ELEMENTARY PROJECT WAS FUNDED BY THE MASTER GARDENER LEGACY GRANT FUND.

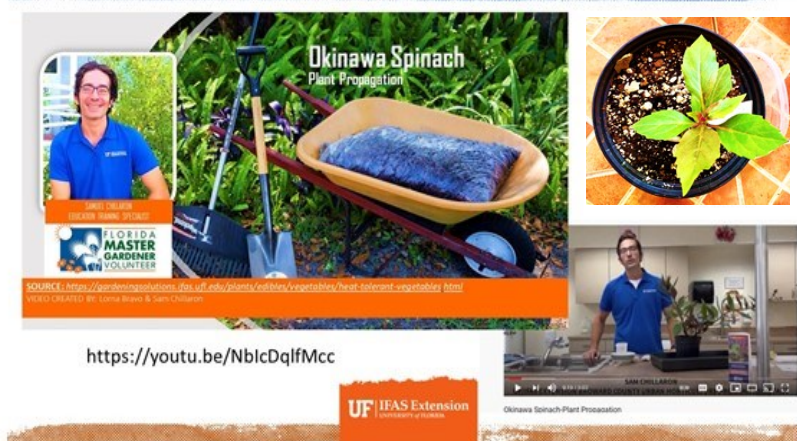
AS THE DEMAND FOR TRAINED FARMERS INCREASES IN OUR SOCIETY IN THE COMING YEARS, THE FOUNDATIONS THAT TEACHERS LAY IN THE MINDS OF THEIR STUDENTS ABOUT SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION ARE INVALUABLE.

TEACHERS ARE VALUABLE INFLUENCERS OF BROWARD COUNTY'S YOUTH, INSTRUCTING AND LEADING OVER 270,000 STUDENTS IN ONE OF THE US'S LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICTS.



The Master Gardener Legacy Fund -
University of Florida, Institute of Food
and Agricultural Sciences (ufl.edu)

INTRODUCING SUSTAINABLE URBAN GARDENING TO BROWARD SCHOOLS



As a team member of the Vegetable Gardening Team, I've learn an enormous amount of invaluable information about growing food. I have the privilege to work with children. Sharing the knowledge to the younger generation motivates me. Teaching children about how and where food comes from brings a smile to my face. Children love gardening classes. It motivates me to see students learn how to grow food and discover the joy in gardening."

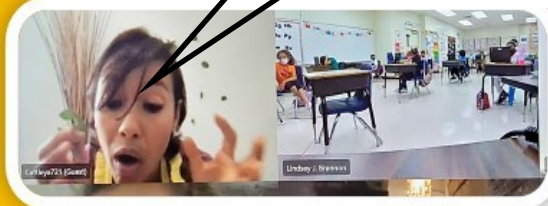
-MGV Class 2018-
Jeannie S.

IMPACT

ELEMENTARY-2ND GRADE

- BROWARD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS **EDUCATED 75 ELEMENTARY STUDENTS VIRTUALLY** TO GROW OKINAWA SPINACH IN SELF-WATERING CONTAINERS

TEACHER'S FEEDBACK



Broward County MGV Jeannie S.



"They wanted to go out every single day to check on them. They loved it!"

"The students walk by them everyday and want to go see and measure how much they grew"

"This fit perfectly into life cycle of a plant lessons, as well as some economics

Urban Horticulture

JUNE 2021-COVID-19

Lorna Bravo –Urban Horticulture Agent

BROWARD
COUNTY
FLORIDA

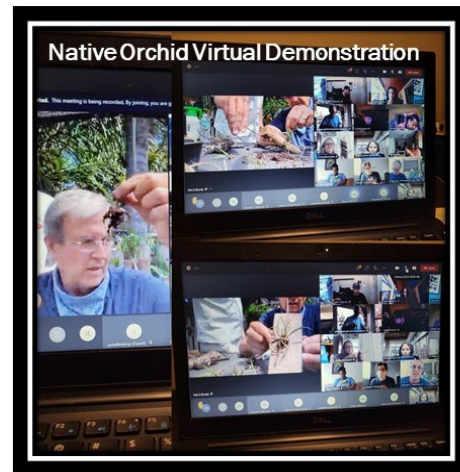
UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



FLORIDA
**MASTER
GARDENER**
VOLUNTEER

Success Stories

20 MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINEES INTRODUCED
60 NATIVE ORCHIDS INTO THEIR BROWARD COUNTY YARDS



Jennifer Sirop, GI-BMP & FFLCP
Florida-Friendly
Landscaping Professional



Gerritt Striker, GI-BMP & FFLCP
Florida-Friendly
Landscaping Professional

FLORIDA-FRIENDLY WATER AMBASSADOR TEAM

INTRODUCING BROWARD COUNTY NATIVE ORCHID PROJECT TO MGVC CLASS 2021



MGV RICH ACKERMAN- PRESIDENT
FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

Florida-Friendly
Landscaping™ PROGRAM

INTERESTED TO NAVITE ORCHIDS TO YOUR YARD? Read our Blog:



[Invite Native Orchids to your Yard - UF/IFAS Extension Broward County \(ufl.edu\)](https://ufl.edu)

Success Stories

COMPLETED OUR FIRST FULL 15-WEEK
BROWARD COUNTY VIRTUAL MASTER GARDENER
VOLUNTEER CLASS 2021



"Lorna, thank you for your selflessness and passion. This has been an empowering experience and I look forward to continuing to learn and grow!" MGVT Trainee 2021

"I absolutely loved it and thank you all for making it so amazing on-line and on-sits!. It was great to meet everyone face to face and also being able to watch the zoom classes as many times as possible. The professors were great!! I learned so much and the way they taught were also key to understanding all of the vital information they provided and with personal applications."-MGVT Trainee 2021

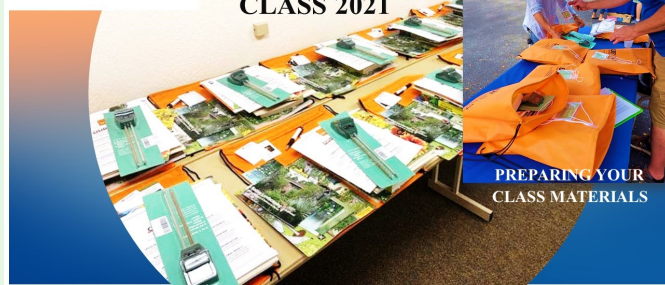
"Thanks for a spectacular course. I know and appreciate all the hard work you both did; it made the program seem seamless. I look forward to being involved in doing the volunteer hours."
- MGVT Trainee 2021

DYK: Volunteering makes you feel happier?

Admittedly, happiness is a hard thing to measure. But when researchers at the London School of Economics examined the relationship between volunteering and measures of happiness, they found the more people volunteered, the happier they were.



VIRTUAL MGVT CLASS 2021



PREPARING YOUR CLASS MATERIALS



Join our Educational Booths-Community Outreach



GROWING FOOD IN SMALL SPACES



Master Gardener Volunteer Trainees
Growing UF-Lettuce Lines



WATCH OUR VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/8kxPTMv8gMc>



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BROWARD COUNTY
FLORIDA

GIVING BACK TO OUR
COMMUNITY
EMPOWERING OUR NEXT
GENERATION



THE CIRCLE OF LIFE EXPERIENCE-SNYDER PARK



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the interconnection of environmental sustainability and wellness by engaging the community in experiential learning opportunities and education.

The CIRCLE OF LIFE EXPERIENCE (COL): The project was created to inspire a love of nature and to demonstrate and educate the community about sustainable living and interconnection of all living things. "The Circle of Life" includes a fully developed 1/4-acre Butterfly Garden, a 25 fruit Tree Orchard, an expansive and flourishing permaculture inspired Food Forest, a 1/4 acre of developed Bird and Butterfly Habitat, and a Demonstration Home Food Garden that also serves as a monthly Volunteer Service-Learning site. In addition, the project offers a monthly guided walking tour through all the "Circle of Life" offerings.

UF/IFAS EXTENSION
BROWARD COUNTY MASTER
GARDENER
VOLUNTEER JOAN STARR
CLASS 2016



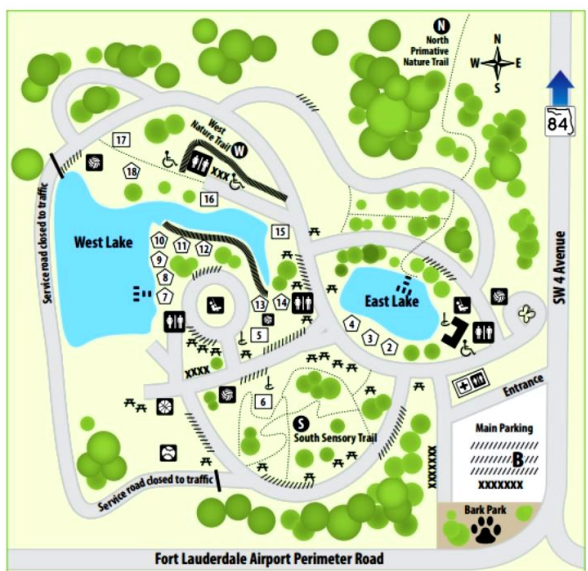
Grand Opening

SATURDAY, JULY 17 | 10 AM
SNYDER PARK
 3299 SW 4th Ave. | Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

Come and join *Saturday, July 17th at 10 am* for the Grand Opening of the Circle of Life Project. Everyone can enjoy seeing the many years in the making effort to create a joyous Community educational experience honoring the wonder and beauty of nature, healthy living, and a sustainable planet. It was designed and maintained by the City of Fort Lauderdale, local not for profit organizations, and Community Volunteers .

PARKS & RECREATION
 City of Fort Lauderdale

SNYDER PARK MAP



MAP OF 93 ACRE SNYDER



Working hard in the Food Forest.



THE CIRCLE OF LIFE EXPERIENCE MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the interconnection of environmental sustainability and wellness by engaging the community in experiential learning opportunities and education.

Florida-Friendly Landscape Plant of The Month

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

- ❑ **Family:** *Asclepiadaceae* (Milkweed Family)
- ❑ **Scientific Name:** *Asclepias incarnata*
- ❑ **Common Name:** Swamp milkweed,
Pink milkweed
- ❑ **Zone:** (Native to Florida)
- ❑ **Uses:** With its showy flower clusters, it attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. It is a host plant for the Monarch butterfly and the Queen butterfly. Special value to native bees.



Native Milkweeds & The Queen Butterfly

The beautiful Queen butterfly is a relatively large species, 3.1 to 3.3 inches long, with a darker coloring than its cousins, the Monarch and Soldier. Its scientific name is *Danaus gilippus*. Hues on adult butterflies are orange-brown or mahogany with black and white wing borders. On the open forewings (wings closest to the head), small white spots tip the outer margins or apex. On the ventral or bottom wings, those white spots appear within black borders. Wings closed, white spots appear outside the black lines spread across the upper forewing and lower hindwing. Note that males carry a distinct black androconial pheromone patch to attract females visible near their abdomen. Queen caterpillars have yellow, white, and black stripes in each segment of their long bodies. Although similar to Monarch caterpillars, Queens have three pairs of black feelers sprouted along their body, unlike Monarchs, who have only two. Queens use various Milkweeds for breeding as females only lay one egg on host plants at a time and rely on *Asclepias*, the plant's toxic cardenolides steroid, to deter predators. Among the host plants for Queens in Florida's wildlife areas is White Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias perennis*, a short-lived perennial found in the west, central and north Florida (FNPS.org). The pink-flowered Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, grows within swamps, wet hammocks, and prairies, along with White Twinevine, *Funastrum clausum*. Whorled Milkweed, *Asclepias verticillata*, is found throughout Florida's central pinelands, as is Pineland Milkweed, *Asclepias humistrata*. Additionally, Few flower Milkweed, *Asclepias lanceolata*, likens wet to sandy soils. Rarely Queens host on Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*. Available commercially are *Asclepias perennis*, *tuberosa*, and the non-native species Tropical Milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica*, and *gigantea*. Caution: Tropical Milkweed may be treated with insecticides or linked to *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE), a protozoan parasite slowing butterfly capabilities. So for best results, select native plants!

-MGV Pat Rossi



FLORIDA
MASTER
GARDENER
VOLUNTEER



UF/IFAS EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PAT ROSSI



Florida-Friendly Landscape Butterfly of The Month



Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM



The Queen Butterfly



A Complete Lifecycle

Photo Credit: MGV Amy Rielly

Florida-Friendly Landscape Principle # 5 Attract Wildlife

Plants in your landscape that provide food, water and shelter will attract Florida's diverse wildlife.



WATCH OUR VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/HEawBSpvIEY>

STAY CONNECTED-VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:



[@UrbanHortBroward](https://www.instagram.com/UrbanHortBroward)



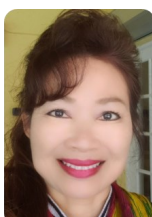
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**FLORIDA
MASTER
GARDENER
VOLUNTEER**



UF/IFAS EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER AMY RIELLY



READ OUR BLOG:

[Provide for Wildlife- The Queen Butterfly - UF/IFAS Extension Broward County \(ufl.edu\)](#)